CLAIMS

1. An ultrasound imaging system comprising a hard disk, an operating system and a virus scanner comprising means for detecting a file having an attribute of a virus before said file is installed on said hard disk by said operating system.

2. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 1, wherein said attribute is a checksum of said file.

3. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 1, wherein said attribute is a size of said file.

4. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a display subsystem, wherein said virus scanner further comprises:

means for actuating display of a graphical user interface by said display subsystem in response to detection of said file, said graphical user interface comprising a virus alert and a virtual actuator; and

means for instructing said operating system to install said file in response to selection of said virtual actuator.

5. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 4, further comprising a log of virus detection events, wherein said virus scanner further comprises means for logging an entry in said log in response to selection of said virtual actuator.

6. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a registry containing information registering authorized processes; and

a virus protection monitor comprising means for suspending a process to be started by said operating system, means for receiving an identifier identifying said suspended process from said operating system, and means for detecting that said suspended process is not registered in said registry.

7. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 6, wherein said information in said registry is encrypted, further comprising a decrypter arranged to decrypt encrypted information sent from said registry to said virus protection monitor.

8. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 6, further comprising a display subsystem, wherein said virus protection monitor further comprises means for actuating display of a first graphical user interface by said display subsystem in response to detection that said suspended process is not registered, said first graphical user interface comprising a virus alert and a virtual actuator.

9. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 8, wherein said virus protection monitor further comprises means for instructing said operating system to kill said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

10. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a log of virus detection events, wherein said virus protection monitor further comprises means for logging an entry in said log in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

11. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 9, wherein said virus protection monitor further

comprises means for instructing said operating system to remove from said hard disk the file that started said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

12. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 8, wherein said virus protection monitor further comprises:

means for actuating display of a second graphical user interface by said display subsystem in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface, said second graphical user interface comprising a request for confirmation and a virtual actuator; and

means for adding information to said registry for registering said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said second graphical user interface.

13. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 12, wherein said information in said registry is encrypted, further comprising an encrypter arranged to encrypt information sent from said virus protection monitor to said registry.

14. An ultrasound imaging system comprising:

a hard disk;

a registry containing information registering authorized processes; and

a computer programmed to perform the following steps: suspending a process to be started; and detecting that said suspended process is not registered in said registry.

15. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 14, wherein said information in said registry is encrypted, said computer being further programmed to decrypt encrypted information read from said registry.

16. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 14, further comprising a display subsystem, wherein said computer is further programmed to actuate display of a first graphical user interface by said display subsystem in response to detection that said suspended process is not registered, said first graphical user interface comprising a virus alert and a virtual actuator.

17. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 16, wherein said computer is further programmed to kill said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

18. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 17, further comprising a log of virus detection events, wherein said computer is further programmed to log an entry in said log in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

19. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 17, wherein said computer is further programmed to remove from said hard disk the file that started said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

20. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 16, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the following steps:

actuating display of a second graphical user interface by said display subsystem in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical

user interface, said second graphical user interface comprising a request for confirmation and a virtual actuator; and

adding information to said registry for registering said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said second graphical user interface.

21. The ultrasound imaging system as recited in claim 20, wherein said information in said registry is encrypted, said computer being further programmed to encrypt information before placing it in said registry.

22. A method of protecting an ultrasound imaging system against viruses, comprising the steps of:

storing a registry on a hard disk, said registry containing information registering authorized processes;

suspending a process to be started; and

detecting that said suspended process is not registered in said registry.

23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein said information in said registry is encrypted, further comprising the step of decrypting information read from said registry.

24. The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of displaying a first graphical user interface in response to detection that said suspended process is not registered, said first graphical user interface comprising a virus alert and a virtual actuator.

25. The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the step of killing said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said

first graphical user interface.

26. The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the step of placing an entry in a log of virus detection events in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

27. The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the step of removing from said hard disk the file that started said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface.

28. The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a second graphical user interface in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said first graphical user interface, said second graphical user interface comprising a request for confirmation and a virtual actuator; and

adding information to said registry for registering said suspended process in response to selection of said virtual actuator on said second graphical user interface.

29. The method as recited in claim 28, wherein said information in said registry is encrypted, further comprising the step of encrypting information before placing it in said registry.